

MilAtari Limited Edition

Vol. IX, No. 8
August 1990

This Month:

Annual Club Picnic

Sat., August 18th, 12:00 Noon
Greenfield Park, Area #4
2028 S. 124th St., West Allis

Exec. Board Meeting

Sun., August 26th, 7:30pm
Shakey's
9638 W. National Ave.

Next Month:

General Meeting

Sat., Sept. 15th, 12:00 Noon
Greenfield Park Lutheran
Church
1236 S. 115th St., West Allis

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From the President

The Rain, the Park, and Other Things

Sure hope I don't jinx our picnic by the title of my article this month, but even if it is raining, our annual picnic will be held Saturday August 18, at Greenfield Park, Area #4. (I promise I have that area # right this time guys. Honest!!!)

As usual, bring a dish to pass, your appetites, and a few bucks for some PD disks, and we'll supply the meat, buns, beer and soda. This will be a great opportunity to wind down after GEN CON. We also anticipate having a wealth of door prizes to give away, including a modem donated by a generous member who has asked to remain anonymous.

Speaking of door prizes, there are some sort of "behind the scene" type facts I think you should be aware of before we give away software that has been most generously donated by many different distributors and developers. When these companies send us programs, they are often sent with the understanding that we print a review in our newsletter. It is extremely uncomfortable for Armin and me to approach those same people six months after our Christmas party to ask for more donations to our group when we are fully aware that much of what we have previously received has yet to be written up in our newsletter.

I feel very strongly about this situation because I am concerned about our image in the Atari community. We have worked very hard to project ourselves in a professional and businesslike manner, by our newsletter, our public appearances, and our relations with Atari and other corporations. Let's not blow it by coming across as a bunch of freeloaders out to get everything for nothing. So we are going to be calling in our chips, so to speak, after this giveaway. Most of what was donated at our last picnic and the Christmas party was not reviewed, and if that continues to be the case there just won't be anything to give away at the next party.

I understand that there are many reasons why people don't write reviews. Our newsletter by appearance alone can be intimidating. I remember the first article I submitted to Jim Morales, our last Editor. I was afraid it wouldn't be good enough to print. When it appeared in the next newsletter I was thrilled! There are programs I have used that I don't feel I could adequately review. There are many games in our house I wouldn't even attempt to write about. We understand that there are times that you may not be able to write about something you won at a MilAtari event. But that should be the exception, not the norm!

So, we've decided to help those of you not inclined to write for whatever reason. We will be putting together a form, which will be included with the giveaways. Think of it as a book report for those of you not inclined to want to write up a lengthy article on your own, or a checklist for others. We will ask that you take time to answer all the questions and return the form to MilAtari within a reasonable period of time. Of course if you would like to write up a review on your own, we encourage you to do so. However, we will then attempt to review the software given away "creatively" based on your responses to our questions.

Thought I'd pass on a conversation I had with an unnamed developer while

MilAtari Ltd.

The Milwaukee Area
Atari Users Group
Post Office Box 14038
West Allis, WI 53214

Membership in MilAtari Ltd. is open to all individuals and families interested in personal computing. Annual dues are \$20.00 for individuals, \$25.00 per family and includes a one year subscription to this newsletter and access to club libraries. Membership applications may be obtained at the monthly meeting or by writing to the club Secretary at the above address.

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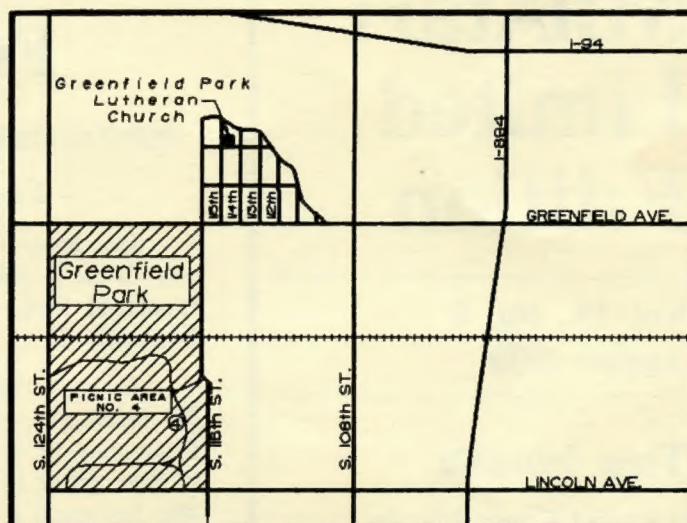
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Map to Greenfield Park, site of the 1990 MilAtari Club Picnic

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James Cone and Marcus Musial

The Cartographer

Mfg: Dream Park Development**List Price:** \$19.95**Type:** ST game utility**Rating:** Fair

While many of you are just beginning to think about tackling Dungeon Master as others of you are getting your teeth wet in the early stages of Chaos Strikes Back, there are some of us who have achieved the ultimate success and only wish to clean up the mysteries of the dungeons. Clue books are fine for those who need them but the ultimate helper is the Cartographer! Beware, if you enjoy a challenge don't buy the Cartographer. At least not until you've either finished the game or have been emotionally overcome with fear.

To put it simply the Cartographer takes the dungeon out of Dungeon Master (DM) and Chaos Strikes Back (CSB). Oh, to be sure the cartographer is not just another mapping utility. It takes into account the current status of your game at the time you last saved it. Also, it has a unique feature that allows you to alter the objects which inhabit the dungeon. This last feature would have been significant if only you could create or recreate the monsters and treasures of the dungeons as well.

More about the features of the Cartographer. After loading the program (which may or may not be as easy as the authors say it is) you insert a copy of a saved game disk (notice we said copy). Click on the

file heading and click on whichever type save game you have. When the file selector box appears click on the "OK" box. Your saved game will load. After loading you can select whichever level you want to work on. A map of that level will appear. By clicking the right mouse button at this time you will get an "ALERT BOX" which gives you a list of operations that can be performed on the map. Although it doesn't say so, any alterations done to the maps and saved thru the "SAVE GAME" option will also affect the dungeon itself.

Under the "OTHER" option you can select either the "COLOR" or "MONO" option. Color is recommended for viewing on the screen but you should switch to the "MONO" option for printing the maps. We tried to copy the color maps on a dot matrix printer and they were totally useless. Another option under this

Continued on page 9

Armin Baier, Septuagenarian

CardFile

Mfg: CT Software**List Price:** \$25.00**Type:** ST Utility/Accessory**Color or Mono monitor**

Summary: Can be programmed from Menu or ACCessory; powerful filtering capability & prints filtered address book and phone list. Address envelopes automatically with return. Send address into any word processor. Appointment calendar & diary. Illustrated manual.

The Accessory version of CardFile is at your fingertips from any GEM application and will transmit data directly into other GEM programs such as work processors and DTP. If a phone call comes in while working in a GEM program, the accessory can be brought down to add

an address and schedule an appointment without exiting the work. To make a phone call, while in a GEM program, bring down the accessory, type the first few characters of the name, and press the dial option to automatically dial the phone.

The address (DAT) and appointment (APT) files are saved automatically upon exiting CardFile if the Verify option is off. If the verify option is turned on, a prompt will appear to provide the option of saving the current files before exiting.

The following is a summary of the CardFile menus:

- Main Menu
- Edit Menu
- Filter (select) Menu
- File Menu

- Print Menu
- Dial Menu
- Calendar Menu
- Agenda Menu
- Make Appointment Menu

One card and an options menu are displayed in the CardFile window. The window can be moved and sized. Most CardFile options are selected from a menu of mouse selectable buttons along the right side of the window. The selectable mouse button menu changes in different program sections. Keyboard equivalents are available for some menu options. These are shown on the appropriate menu item with a caret.

The manual is easy to read and follow. An Autocap Feature is present which automatically capitalize the first letter of each field and the letter following a space or a period. This allows fast and consistent data entry without having to remember to capitalize.

Continued on page 10

Dennis Wilson

ICD FA-ST Tape Backup

Mfg: ICD**List Price:** \$800.00 (approx.)**Type:** ST hardware**Rating:** Excellent

It is no secret that a fact of human nature is that the more get, the more you want. It goes hand-in-hand with "bigger is better". Everyone has heard of how neat hard drives are. The thing of it is, once you get one, you find yourself wanting more and more room. With time and concentration of resources (money), you may eventually be able to afford one that will make you the envy of every computer owner on your block. At that point, however, you find yourself coming up against a paradox. It goes something like this: 1) The bigger your hard drive storage, the more you find to fill it up, 2) The more you fill it up, the longer it takes to back it up to floppies, 3) The longer it takes to back it up, the less often you will do so. Unfortunately, someone, somewhere, decreed that the less often you back up your hard drive, the more you will someday regret not having done so more often!

The law of averages catches up with you. Perhaps you run up against the dreaded Version 1.0 Syndrome. Perhaps someone had a good idea for something that just doesn't work right on a hard drive, or maybe you become the victim of a hardware glitch that happens to one in a million, but that one turns out to be you. Now you KNOW that you should back up your precious data to floppies more often, but takes so LONG! I currently have 150 megabytes of hard drive storage, consisting of two 65 megabyte RLL Seagate mechanisms in a shoebox case, coupled to my old trusty, and still running, Supra 20. There are many hard drive backup programs out there, each claiming to be the ultimate in backup programs,

but no matter which one I would choose, it would still take hours to back up that kind of data to floppies.

Being the club ST PD Librarian, I am constantly running PD programs off my hard drive, moving them on and off the system on an almost daily basis. I also use my ST to write

**....sometimes I will
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something before
reading the directions,
just to see how user
friendly it is. This is
user friendly!**

reports related to my work. All this means that, if my hard drive goes down at any given moment, I'm probably going to lose a lot of unbacked-up files. Over the years, I have had hard drives go down for a number of reasons. When it happens, you find out just how fast you can develop grey hairs. I recently decided it was time to rectify this state of affairs. Besides, Christmas was months ago and I felt that it was time for a new toy!

If you want to back up your hard drive to something other than floppies, what options are there? There are basically three of them: 1) Adding a 44 megabyte removable cartridge hard drive to the system, 2) Buying the DVR Tape Backup System, and 3) Buying the ICD Fast Tape Backup.

I hesitated on options 1 and 3 because no one I knew had one and I couldn't get a bottom-line opinion on

them. I decided against option 2 precisely because someone I knew DID have one. Making a wrong choice here could be an expensive mistake. I finally decided on the ICD FA-ST Tape Backup after I held a ST Sig session on hard drives. My foresight in announcing this well in advance was rewarded by the Sales Manager of ICD showing up. From him, I found out enough additional information to convince me that this was the way to go. He also told me a way to use this device for more than just hard drive backup, but more on that later.

So, what do you get for your \$800+? The FA-ST comes in an under-the-monitor case with the tape drive in the right side of the case. There is room in the left side of the case for a hard drive mechanism. The Tape Backup can be purchased with or without the option to add this later. Naturally, I bought mine with this option. Guess what next year's toy is going to be! The case has legs which can be screwed in or out to provide the correct amount of tilt to a monitor sitting on top of the case. The case comes with a quiet-running fan, a big plus in my book. Also, part of the system is a hardware clock which installs as DMA device 6. Two disks are included, one with the ICD Hard Drive Utilities, and the other with the tape drive software.

When hooking up the tape drive and operating it for the first time, I was struck with how user friendly it was. Now, folks, I'm the type of guy who operates on the principle, "When all else fails, read the directions". In fact, sometimes I will deliberately run something before reading the directions, just to see how user friendly it is. This is user friendly! I should point out, however, that since I had an ICD hard drive, I already had the ICD utilities installed on that drive and was familiar with them.

The first thing that endeared it to me was how easy it is to set the DMA device number. There is a little

Continued on next page

ICD FA-ST Tape Backup from previous page.

counter on the back which can be easily be reset. Any one who, like me, has ever tried to hook up two Atari hard drives together will appreciate how wonderful a little thing like that can be. Another thing that is nice is the LONG cable that come with it. The ICD drives and the FA-ST Tape Backup have such long cables because the ICD utilities provide for read and write verify, and therefore do not require a short cable to eliminate errors. Updates to these utilities are posted by ICD on Genie on a regular basis. These utilities are protected, in that they search for an ICD Host Adapter when they are booted. When the power source on my ICD recently blew and forced disconnection of that drive, I hooked up the FA-ST Tape Backup to the Supra and installed the utilities on the new Drive C. The ICD utilities booted just fine. The Host Adapter therefore does not have to be the first device in the DMA chain. It just has to be somewhere down the line. This means that you can hook up the tape drive to another hard drive brand, such as an Atari Hard Drive.

When booting the tape backup program, you get a screen divided into two parts, half dealing with file backups, and the other half with image backups. Since file backup is so fast, image backup is only needed when backing up non-GEM partitions, such as MacIntosh partitions for use with Spectre. Since I do not have any non-GEM partitions and do not therefore use the image backup option, I cannot comment on its efficiency. I can tell you that the file backup option is FAST! I believe it is everything ICD claims. I can backup my entire system in about 15 minutes. As a result, I now do this virtually every day. And that is the name of the game! When you can do it quickly, you tend to do it often!

In addition to being able to backup and restore whole partitions, you can choose to backup or restore selected folders or files. This is an important feature, as individual files

or folders are more likely to become corrupted than entire partitions. Once you have selected the partition or files you wish to back up to tape, then you are given an opportunity to type in up to 4 lines of partition information before choosing whether to append the chosen material to the end of the saved partitions on the tape, or to start saving it at the beginning of the tape. If the latter is chosen, then all information previously written to

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the tape will be destroyed. When you save out material to a tape, it is laid out sequentially in partitions on the tape. One limitation of tape backup is that you cannot later add to material in a given partition. You can only add another partition of files to that already saved on the tape.

Every piece of equipment has its up and down sides. The upside of the FA-ST Tape Backup is it's extremely fast backup. Once files to be restored are located on a tape, restoring them to a hard drive is equally fast. The downside of it is the time it takes to locate a partition on a tape, assuming it is not the first partition.

Let's say you decide to backup all the partitions on your hard drive, and you have a large hard drive with 11 partitions. Each partition on your hard drive will be saved out as a partition on your tape. Now, let's say you want to restore something on partition M. You have to start at the beginning of the tape. You then select to manually copy files between the tape and the hard drive. Then you get a menu screen which lets you select

"next partition", and you go on to partition D, etc. There is no menu choice which lets you go directly to hard drive partition M. You have to click on this menu selection repeatedly until you get to you desired partition. Depending on how much material there is in each partition, there can be several minutes before the tape is advanced to the next partition. it is therefore possible to spend 15-20 minutes trying to get to the end of the tape. This is the time-consuming part involved with the tape backup.

If technically possible, a change in the software which would advance the drive to a selected partition would be a vast improvement. An option to rewind the tape and then advance the tape to a bypassed earlier partition would also be a boon. Another improvement would be an option to restore files from tape to a floppy drive. Right now, you can only restore to a regular hard drive partition. Normally, this is no big deal if it is just a matter of a folder or some files that is scrambled. If you have one hard drive and it goes down completely, however, you are in trouble. While it is being repaired, you would have no access to your tape files. It would be nice to be able to run some of those programs off floppies while you wait for your hard drive to be returned. One thing about hard drives is that once you have one, you tend to rely on it exclusively. Sure, you should have those programs on floppies somewhere, but where? And the, what if you don't? What is they have been configured or updated since then?

The Balance Sheet

On the balance then, how does this device stack up against the 44 megabyte removable cartridge drives? The answer is, it all depends what you are trying to do. The FA-ST Tape Backup is excellent for its intended purpose, quickly backing up your precious hard drive files. It also provides a cheap, compact mass storage

Chris Alby

Piracy - A Member's View

What is so wrong about pirating?

Definition from World Book Dictionary

pirate -n. 4. *Figurative.* a person, company, or organization that appropriates or uses something to which another has the exclusive rights.

-v.t. 3. *Figurative.* a to publish or use without the author's permission. b to appropriate or use (something, the exclusive rights to which have been assigned to another).

Pirating is a slang term for outright stealing. For the sake of the personal computer user it must cease to exist. Here I stand. Art thou friend or foe?

"Some of the greatest computer wizards used to break codes and they even became famous for it (not to mention rich). What about them?"

"I can't get caught and even if I did what could happen. It isn't like it's a crime or anything."

"I do it for the experience. And get real - if they really meant that they didn't want you to pirate they wouldn't make it so easy."

"I have a friend and he (or she) says that they; these people; other computer users; or whatever you care to think of does it all the time, so why shouldn't I?"

"My company bought it for me at work so I use it on all my work... and so does my spouse and kids.. and my friends."

"The person I got it from doesn't use it very much so he's paying for both of us. We share it as a group."

"I bought a program and it didn't work right so I'm taking this

one so I don't get ripped off again. I don't like the company so I'm not going to make them money."

"They are ripping me off! My computer isn't made anymore so how can anyone be selling programs now? It's all up for grabs, and I'll break even on this thing yet. Hey, this version will be outdated soon anyway."

Some have been sent in as felons for their piratical experience.

"I never really thought about it. But I'm not hurting anybody. You see, it's just this once and only for a little while. You don't think I am rich, do you?"

"Never thought about it", you mean you just never cared. People make a living off of this. They feed their kids with this. They work their butts off so you can have it easier... so the work that feeds your kids is easier. But all that you can say is "I don't care!"

It happens. Someone comes up with a great idea and it doesn't go. Then you who bought the idea can't use it. Unless of course you buy the software and let them know that it was good. They stopped making Texas Instruments computers generations ago. Now you tell my friend who uses one that it don't work. Most of his programs are shareware (gladly paid for) that do what everyone else is doing. If you think that your machine is good for nothing though, sell it and buy again or live without. Just don't tell me it's dead.

I'll bet money that you never gave them a chance. A good deal of your money went into their top notch service department. If you want the

best, ask them. They'll tell you how to get what you need out of their ware.

If he's really not using it then you should buy it from him. If he wont sell (the original), then he is using it.

Don't let your company hear that. Yes, some do have licenses for work at home. And if it's your company, it's your program and you can do whatever you want with it. But your program is no more his or hers than yours. It's their company (unless you want to give them the company).

And if he jumps, will you? Or perhaps because you're honest (and sane) he should listen to you for a change.

I hope experience includes a jail term. Some have been sent in as felons for their piratical experience. And the only reason that it is so easy is that some one like that broke the security on the disk and then passed it along. Now - the question is - do you want to be an accessory?

Ah you must be talking about the first three generations of hackers (the 50's & 60's, the 70's, and the very early 80's). Well, if you'll kindly remember (or look up if you weren't alive) not too many software distributors were around then (about none unless you were a big company and hired your own programmer for a upper 5 digit salary). And some of those wiz kids got prison terms for being where the government or the phone company didn't allow. The wrong application of your talent will get you a striped suit and free room and board with a view. The right one may produce a 6 digit figure or more.

Do you stand alone in the forest at night? Do you repel the storm of change - on a sandy beach with the tide coming in? Are you a pirate? If so, you'll need luck - better find it from someone else - foe. But otherwise, for those who will stand and guard my shadow, thank you sirs and madams, my friends.

Your fun lovin' editor

Bits 'n Bytes

Well, I'm finally back! Due to space considerations, my column has not appeared for the past few months.... reviews and other articles always take precedence. But things appear to be back to normal this month, so here goes!

Newsletter Articles

A couple of items on this topic.... first, I would like to make a clarification on the "free PD disk for a newsletter article" offer. I had stated that, in order to qualify, an article has to be a minimum of 1/2 page in the newsletter. This translates to a Word Writer ST file of about 2,500 bytes. This is simply to insure that only actual articles (as opposed to announcements, etc.) qualify. Well, some members thought that this meant that you would get a free disk for EVERY half page of an article that you submitted (meaning that, for a 4 page article, you would get 8 disks!) Well, as nice as that might be, I'd probably have Dennis and Dale on my doorstep in a flash, and not for a social visit! So, just to clarify, the 1/2 page is a minimum, and there is a maximum of one PD disk per article.

As you read this month's newsletter, you will note a few new names among the authors of the articles. I would like to welcome Chris Alby, James Cone and Marcus Musial to the world of journalism! I remember the first time I had an article printed.... it was a real kick seeing myself "in print". Hope you feel the same.

Now, if Chris, Jim and Marcus can do it, I'm sure that there are a lot of other members with a journalistic flair.... c'mon, it's alot easier than you might think, and it's lots of fun besides!

Door prizes

As mentioned in Michelle's column, we have been remiss in supplying promised reviews for prizes donated by software and hardware companies. I printed an appeal a few months ago to those who won last year, asking them to contact Armin, but with no response. This was despite my offer to help arrange to have the item reviewed if the winner was not willing or able to review it.

It is truly unfortunate, in light of the generosity of these companies, that we have not been able to return their gesture. To ensure that this does not recur, we will be keeping track of the winners at this year's picnic, and we will be contacting the winners to arrange for a review.

Even if you don't consider yourself a writer, this should not be a problem. If you are willing, try writing the review yourself. I will help you with grammar, spelling,

etc., if desired, so you don't have to worry if you're not a closet Hemingway. As an alternative, we are working on a "fill-in-the-blanks" type review sheet that we can use as a basis for writing a review. Either way, we ask that you support our efforts in this regard.... it is vital that we maintain our hard-earned reputation with the software and hardware companies that support us.

A Sad Goodbye

Many of you already know this, but Michelle suggested that I put an announcement in the newsletter because of my high degree of involvement with the club. Because of changes in my computing needs (primarily due to changes in my professional environment), I have sold my ST system. As a result, I will be leaving the club after my current term as newsletter editor (as of next April).

What lead to this? Well, my company is in the process of converting our information management systems from a flat file system to a more powerful relational database system. I am involved in the development of a series of pilot projects being developed on high-end MS-DOS (IBM-compatible) microcomputers, to be ported to our VAX system in the near future. I will be using some of these tools at home, and they require a minimum of a 386 microprocessor. As such, none of the current ST PC emulator products would fit the bill. So, I am now the owner of a 386 IBM compatible computer system.

I purchased my ST in late 1986, and have gotten a lot of enjoyment and utility out of it. I'm adapting well to my new environment, but I still miss the friendly GEM desktop. My ST has found a good home at the residence of Mark Jones, and I'm sure that he will get as much enjoyment out of it as I have.

I truly hope that Atari follows through on their announced marketing plans and have a great future with the ST, STe, TT and Stacy. If they can just get some exposure and some excitement back in the marketplace, the public may once again recognize what a fine computer Atari builds. I wish them all the best.

At any rate, I will be around for awhile, and I plan to stay in touch, so this is not goodbye, just so long. Until next month....

MilAtari Ltd. Door Prize Policy

Your board of directors passed a policy some time ago on the subject of door prizes so as to be as fair as possible to all members. So the rules are, simply put:

Ya gotta be there!

One ticket per membership!

Ya gotta be a member!

Even board members are eligible to win!

FREE SOFTWARE



TAYLOR COMPUTER'S USER REFERRAL SYSTEM

- A: Tell someone about Atari computers.
- B: Call us with both their name and phone number and your name and phone number.
- C: Then, if they buy a computer system* from us, we will give you software valued at 5% of the total value of their system.

* System includes a minimum of a C.P.U., a disk drive, a monitor, and at least one piece of software.



COMPUTERS

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FA•ST

"ICD sells a superb, excellent, wonderful tape backup unit. I love mine, and it's saved me any number of times.. There's nothing else like this in the ST world; priceless and fast."

-Dave Small, Gadgets by Small

"Using the ICD Tape Backup was surprisingly simple and faster than imaginable. It was so fast that I doubted it was real."

-John Nagy, reviewer for Computer Shopper

"The ICD FA•ST Tape system is a dream come true. The hardware works flawlessly, and the software is incredibly flexible and easy to use...it's simply the best way to back up your hard drive."

-Charles F. Johnson, Codehead Software

ICD has been backing up Atari users since 1984. With hard drives, host adapters, printer interfaces, and the new FA•ST Tape Backup, ICD offers you more! Call us for information on our products. **(815) 968-2228**

ICD

Dennis Wilson

ST PD Update

MilAtari Ltd. ST Public Domain Library Disks are available at the meeting at a price of \$3.50 per disk, and through mail order at \$4.00 per disk. The charge for the disks covers the cost of the media and handling, with all proceeds going to support the activities activities of MilAtari Ltd.

Some of the programs on these disks have been released as shareware and are so documented in the programs themselves. MilAtari Ltd. supports the shareware concept and you are encouraged to make donations to the individual authors should you find their programs useful.

The MilAtari PD Libraries are intended to provide a repository for useful and interesting programs, and each file is tested before inclusion on the disk. We believe that each file is worthy of your consideration. No warranty is expressed nor implied, however, as to their content or usability. Defective disks will be gladly replaced. These disks are made available for sale at the the monthly club meeting and may be ordered in advance by posting a message in the Library Lounge on the club BBS. Librarians of other clubs are encouraged to contact our ST Librarian concerning trading of programs in their respective libraries.

DISK 017 - DEMO DISK

- CARTOON:** A sequence of about 12 linked cartoon pictures with music.
- LOWDEMO:** A low rez colorful pattern generating demo.
- TUMBLE:** Tumble-ST v2.05, Another Adventure in Kinetic Art - A pattern generating demo. Ten different parameters can be adjusted by pressing one of the function keys. Not recommended for persons suffering from epilepsy.

* * *

In August, we will be adding only one disk to the ST PD Library. This disk replaces the former Disk 17, the Black Cauldron Demo. This was a "protected", or non-standard disk. No less than THREE master disks mysteriously went down, almost simultaneously. In line with a policy decision I made some time ago, I wouldn't restore it, even if I could find a working copy of the demo, which is unlikely. It has been my experience that "protected" or funny-formatted demos are frustrating for both the seller and the purchasers of PD disks. Some demos will run one one drive, but not on another. Others will suddenly crash, seemingly for no reason. As a result, I will not place any such demos in the library in the future, and I have removed all of them that were in the library. The

above disk is the last one that needed to be replaced. I realize that this means purchasers of club disks will miss out on a few fine demos, but I believe that they will thereby also be avoiding a few headaches.

As all of you I'm sure are aware, the August meeting is our picnic. As my assistants and myself wish to be able to be able to devote ourselves to all of the fun and frolics, disks will not be offered for sale there. If, however, you wish to obtain the above or other disks prior to the September meeting, be sure to take advantage of our mail order program. Instructions for ordering disks are given elsewhere in the newsletter. Be sure not to miss the picnic. It's one of the benefits of your membership. See you there!

The Cartographer

from page 3.

heading is "SPELL LIST". This can also be printed out. By using the "SUBTITLES" option you can remove the color and subtitles from the spell list. The "SLIDE SHOW" option allows you to view the characters from either your CSB Utility Disk or from your saved game disks. By using the "CHANGE DOORS" option you can change the type of doors found throughout the dungeon with one click of the mouse. The significance of this is that they all open without a key!

Now the nitty gritty. After loading the Cartographer and your copy of your saved game disk you select the level you want to alter. Although you may alter as many levels as you like you must make your changes one level at a time. Then save your altered game. Options are displayed as we said before by clicking the right mouse button after a level is selected. These options include: "DRAW DUNGEON, CHANGE OBJECTS, SAVE SCREEN IN DEGAS, PRINT MAP", etc.

With the "DRAW DUNGEON" option you have the option of selecting either "WALLS" or "SECRET WALLS". By clicking walls for example, all you need to do is put the mouse arrow where you want to add a wall and click the left button. To delete a wall put the mouse arrow on it and click. Clicking the right mouse button will bring you back to the options menu. The "CHANGE OBJECTS" option will allow you to change things in the dungeon. For example, you can change a pit to a wall or a blue field to an imaginary pit. By using the "SAVE SCREEN IN DEGAS" option you can load the program picture onto a disk.

While the average gamerster will undoubtedly find the Cartographer useful in completing his game, there no doubt will be some of us who will try to alter DM and CSB before gameplay even begins. To this end we have nothing to say; at least until we try it!!!

From the President

from page 1.

calling for games to use at GEN CON and door prizes for our picnic. I had a particularly difficult time convincing the representative that the software would be handled legitimately and not opened, copied and shrink wrapped again to give out. She stated that they really had a lot of problems in that area, and wanted to know how I could make sure that people coming to the convention would not format a disk and make copies right on the spot. Well, I explained that we were staffed quite well, that Bob Brodie would be on hand the whole time, and finally, I just gave my word that what she described would not in fact be allowed to happen. Feeling a bit on the abused side by then, I finally asked her, "If you don't mind my asking, are you talking about ST users, or all users in general?" Loaded question, right? To my surprise and relief, she spontaneously replied, "Oh no, I'm talking about all users in general, but the MAC users are the worst!" I thought you'd all appreciate that one!

Under the topic of other things, I hope you all have an opportunity to read David Small's article in the July/August issue of Current Notes. It is a refreshing and welcome change to the depressing journalistic style of some of the other widely read Atari magazines, specifically one on-line magazine that can be found on our BBS. I highly recommend this particular article, and hope to see many more of the same.

Although I haven't yet seen the newest entry into Atari journalism, from what I hear it sounds like ST Journal may be worth checking out. The premier issue sold out as fast as it hit the street. The second edition of this monthly publication is scheduled to be available about now. Current prices for a single issue remain at \$4.50, but you may want to subscribe to take advantage of today's rate of \$34.95 for 12 issues. For more information write: Quill Publications, 113 West College St., Covena, CA 91723.

The WAACE AtariFest '90 will be held October 6 & 7 in Reston, VA, just outside of Washington D.C. User groups are eligible for a special rate of \$5 for a two day pass, so anyone who is planning on attending, give me a call, or send E-mail on our BBS and I'll get some tickets. Looks like I'll be missing yet another AtariFest, unless someone can *convince* my other half otherwise. There are special room rates for show goers, so if you're interested, please ask!

Looking to support the Atari on a local level? Check out the Magic Dragon, a new BBS run on an 8-bit by a newer member, Terry Browning. He's looking for callers, as do all SYSOPs, so give him a call at 482-4660, 24 hours a day. Terry is working with Bob Puff and is running a "not yet available to the public" program, so check it out!

Things are looking different on our own BBS, and it might be just the thing to get some activity going during

our normal summer slow down on the board. Rich has connected our system to a BBS in Minnesota, another Citadel system, which means we will be sharing information with people from all over the world. Every day or so our BBS calls MAST and sends all messages left in the rooms specified for networking, and likewise we will be picking up all the messages in the rooms we have requested to read. This could be fun! We've had this service in the works for some time, and I want to thank Rich for all the time he has put into this project as well as the normal maintenance of our BBS. Now that it is in place, let's use it!

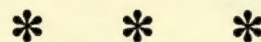
As you are reading this newsletter, we most likely will be in the middle of GEN CON. Bob Brodie will be in town during the convention and those of you signed up to work the show will have the opportunity to work along side Bob (sorry Bob, but yes, we will put you to work!) and get to find out the latest of what's what at Atari Corp. It seems to me from the newsletters I've read from around the country, Bob has been putting in more hours on the road since taking the User Group position than most of us see in a lifetime. In fact, a week after GEN CON he'll be visiting Seattle.

Oh Bob, while visiting SPACE, be sure to steer away from those R rated picture files in their PD library! I understand there is a good old fashioned political controversy brewing up in Seattle, and if you're interested, look for the Puget Sound News in our Publications library to read all about it!

Back here at home, we hope Bob finds GEN CON to be a fun time, and maybe a bit more relaxing and less demanding, as it does promise to be a change from the User Group Shows he has been attending. Help me to show Bob a warm Milwaukee and MilAtari welcome!

See you at GEN CON!

Michelle



CardFile

from page 3.

Template Cards If a majority of the fields on cards are duplications, one card, preferably the first card, can serve as a template for creating a new card.

CardFile allow a printer control sequence to be sent to your printer to enable special functions.

This is a multi-faceted, powerful program which can be enabled quickly and easily from the ACCessory version. It is very useful when the computer is function an another GEM application.

MilAtari Ltd.

ST PD Disk Sale!

Super Summer Sale

For a very limited time, MilAtari will be offering our ST PD disks at a super sale price of \$2.50 per disk provided that the disks are ordered in advance and picked up at the August picnic. To place your telephone order, call Carl at 453-3940. Remember, this is a limited offer, good for August only. Stock up now!

Mail order requests will be honored for members who live out of town only. Mail order prices will be \$3.50 (plus 5% sales tax please) including shipping costs. Mail orders must be placed by August 31 to qualify for the sale price.

8-bit sale prices via phone order will be \$2.00, and mail order price \$2.50. Please add 5% sales tax to all prices. 8-bit orders will also be taken by Carl.

Mail your check (please specify ST or 8-bit with disk numbers) to:

MilAtari Ltd.
PO Box 085232
Racine, WI 53408-5232

**This sale will not be repeated, so
place your order today!**

ICD FA-ST Tape Backup

from page 5.

media. Each tape holds up to 155 megabytes of data. That's over 200 DS disks, all on a tape identical in size to an audio cassette, for \$30+ per tape. The removable cartridges cost about \$90 and hold 44 megabytes. Of course, files on cartridges are more readily accessible, and therefore can be put "online" faster. As I said, each device has its up and downsides.

An upside to this device that I believe is generally unappreciated was suggested to me by the ICD Sales Manager. He suggested a way to use the FA-ST Tape Backup as a mass storage device. This requires having a spare partition on your hard drive. You then save files to it until the partition is full, backup the partition to tape, then wipe the partition and start the process over. A refinement I would suggest is to use a cataloger which catalogs hard drive partitions, to catalog the partition before wiping it. Some sort of numbering system is needed to enable associating the file lists with a partition saved on a tape. The Tape Backup then also becomes one heck of a mass storage device. At \$30+ for 155 megabytes, you can store a LOT of files cheaply and compactly.

In Conclusion

The ICD FA-ST Tape Backup is an excellent device for backing up your hard drive. While on the expensive side if used solely for this purpose, the cost is more than justified if it is also used as a mass storage device of files for which ready access is not a paramount requirement. Think of it as "cold storage" for files. Before choosing a removable cartridge drive, give the ICD FA-ST Tape Backup a close look!

* * *

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